

From the Editor

This regional studies issue admits to a wide world of genuine security trouble spots but finds the priority to our south, particularly in Colombia. Here, in our own hemisphere, is a war whose outcome is in doubt—an outcome that could entirely change our effort to confront transnational crime. Given that fact, the war's regional implications could ultimately have a greater effect on our nation's oil supply than events on the Asian continent. Other perennial worries within the Western Hemisphere are naturally amplified. Cuba's post-Castro future is already under construction, and three social components will figure prominently in the changes. Mexico's security challenges involve its armed forces and concern the United States and other nations in the region.

Meanwhile, old preoccupations with controlling energy resources cannot be discarded. Caucasus hydrocarbons could become a new focal point for geostrategic competition, and not by coincidence, the study following the Caucasus oil article considers Russian policy for using short-range nuclear weapons. A discussion of Islamic fundamentalism casts another shadow over former Soviet Republics in Central Asia.

Farther East, China, a country of vast human resources, is considered in an information-age context. How China will marshal its relative advantage in human intellect, and for what purpose, is a growing concern. In a historical review, a rare explanation of an Afghan battle indirectly warns about ill-considered expeditions and diffuse possession of high-technology weapons.

US Army concerns are more global than ever. *Military Review* will help you stay informed. Let us hear from you.

LJH

